

**Pawtuxet River Authority
& Watershed Council
8 Hope Furnace Road
Hope, RI 02831
401-615-7039
www.pawtuxet.org**

**Board Meeting
April 4, 2016
Location: PRA Headquarters**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Nero at 6:15 pm with 9 members and one associate member present.

Members Present: Robert Nero, Chair; Scott Goodinson, Vice Chair; Charles Horbert, Secretary; Jack Donovan, James Sullivan, Paul Lockett, Paul DePetrillo, Michael Bedard & Stan Brittsan.

Associate Member present: Josh Burgoyne

The agenda was approved by the membership (motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Donovan).

Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Goodinson to table the

minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting since they were not yet available. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for March 2016 was reviewed. Mr. Nero explained the particulars of some items. Mention made of new income from municipalities starting in July. Also Mr. Nero noted several upcoming expenses, including the fish passage study, additional engineering expenses for Harris Dam, work to begin for Randall Pond, expenditures for Veteran's Square, and shelving for the trailer. Motion made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to accept the report. Motion passed.

Progress Reports:

Harris Dam: We have been advised by Fuss & O'Neill, the engineering firm hired to pursue reclassification of the dam, that a bill is forthcoming for additional work they accomplished in order to address comments from the RIDEM Dam Safety Program.

Randall Pond Project: Mr. Horbert summarized progress to date. Mr. Nero reported that RIDEM granted an extension for the grant to December 2016. We have a contractor on board who will work on the project until money in the grant is no longer available. Mr. Nero is also pursuing a line of credit at Centerville Bank to assist in

accessing funds for timely work that can then be reimbursed from the State. Mr. Nero also mentioned a potential future stormwater retrofit project on the paved drainage easement located on adjacent property.

Pontiac Canoe Launch Repairs/Status: ESS has been contracted to assist the PRAWC with design work to obtain a permit from RI DEM. Mr. Burgoyne, who works for ESS, was on hand to discuss the issues they were seeking to address. There was discussion on various design options and permitting requirements for the various alternatives. ESS will work on a preliminary design.

Ross Simon Lot: Ag Core Technologies, our tenant, has recently renewed their lease for two years. They are looking to expand their operation and plan on constructing a new greenhouse. This will need a permit from RIDEM.

Veteran's Square: The contractor, Shalvey, has repaired and replaced the deck on the river. There have been a few alterations...different bracing under the deck. The canoe launch area has also been repaired. The work will cost \$3000, which is over \$500 in excess of what the board authorized.

Save the Lakes event at Bass Pro Shops: PRAWC has been offered a table at this event on April 9, 2016, but we are currently over committed and may not be able to attend. Mr. Nero indicated he

would contact Jimmy Johnson to see if he is interested and able to attend.

Spring Cleanups: The following spring cleanups were announced:

- April 16, 2016 on the Harris-Phenix Riverwalk. Mr. Sullivan will coordinate this one. It was noted that new trail signage will be installed that has contact numbers.
- April 23 at Veteran's Square...general maintenance.
- April 30th, big event for the Pocasset River in conjunction with other groups. Scheduled from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Properties in General: Mr. Nero discussed the various properties owned by the PRAWC in each of the Towns and reminded members of responsibilities for maintenance as well as to report any issues that are observed or noted.

New business:

The estimated bill for the work Fuss & O'Neill had to do in order to address DEM Dam Safety Program is expected to be approximately \$6600. Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to pay the bill when it comes in.

Motion made by Mr. Horbert and seconded by Mr. Donovan to authorize \$500 in order to pay the balance of the bill for work at Veteran's Square beyond the \$2500 that was originally authorized.

PRAWC may be coordinating a family fishing tournament on Tiogue Lake with the Town of Coventry. Mr. Nero stated that we would not be holding a tournament on Johnson's Pond this year.

Mr. DePetrillo reported on a recent visit to Pawtuxet Falls. There are a couple trees on the river-left side of the river that are growing out of, and potentially destabilizing, the rock retaining wall. We do not own this property. Mr. Nero mentioned that as part of the grant for the removal of the dam here, we are obligated to install an interpretive sign. Mr. Nero also mentioned he would like to re-landscape this bank to improve the view, and perhaps to also remove a tree that is located on a rock in the middle of the river.

Reports need to be completed and filed to the RI Ethics Commission by April 29th. This can be done on the website. Mr. Goodinson stated he would send out an e-mail as a reminder.

A motion was made by Mr. DePetrillo, seconded by Mr. Bedard to adjourn. Motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday May 2, 2016

Following the meeting, Mr. Joseph Guarnaccia provided some updates on ongoing remediation and closure work being completed at the landfill on Pontiac Drive in Cranston the former Ciba Geigy site on the Pawtuxet River.